

Summary of course content and assessment scheme

The course covers a wide range of texts from across genres and historical periods including novels, plays and poetry. The coursework unit also allows for independent text choices.

The course builds on and develops skills used at GCSE English but you will find it more demanding. You will have to start considering how contextual information affects the way we read a text (for example how do Shakespeare's plays reflect the worries and controversies of Elizabethan London) – and relate your ideas to how other people have analysed the text in the past.

Year	Module	Assessment and weighting	Includes
AS	AS Unit 1 Prose and Drama (closed-book) Written examination	2 hours 20% of qualification	Section A: Prose fiction pre-1900 One question in two parts, based on the reading of one prose text Section B: Drama One question based on the reading of one play
	AS Unit 2 Poetry Post-1900 (open-book) Written examination	1.5 hours 20% of qualification	Section A: Critical analysis One question requiring critical analysis of one poem from the prescribed list of poetry texts for this unit Section B: Poetry comparison One question requiring comparison of two poetry texts
A2	A2 Unit 3 Poetry Pre-1900 and Unseen Poetry Written examination	2 hours 20% of qualification	Section A: Poetry pre-1900 (closed-book) One question in two parts, based on the reading of one poetry text from a prescribed list Section B: Unseen poetry One question requiring comparative analysis of two unseen poems
	Unit 4 Shakespeare (closed-book) Written examination	1.5 hours 20% of qualification	Section A: Shakespeare extract One question based on an extract from one Shakespeare play Section B: Shakespeare essay One essay question based on the reading of one Shakespeare play
	Unit 5 Prose Study Coursework	20% of qualification	One 2500-3500 word assignment based on the reading of two prose texts from different periods, one pre-2000 and one post-2000.

Why you should study English Literature in the Sixth form:

If you have enjoyed exploring, analysing and discussing texts at GCSE and have a real love of reading, then A Level English could well be for you. The course allows you to read widely and engage with a substantial selection of literary work, including drama, poetry and prose. You will get the chance to see how English Literature has developed over the course of history through studying literature from the 16th century such as Shakespeare, right through to modern works from the 21st century. The coursework allows you to have independence and a level of freedom, making your own choice of texts to compare. A Level English allows you to develop a critical awareness and understanding of these different texts and understand the significance of cultural and historical context in shaping both a text and the reader's response. The course enables you to become confident and skilled in using written English accurately to express your ideas and structure your arguments; an invaluable skill in many other A level courses.

Comments from students who have studied this subject in the past

- “The study of English at A level allows you to see fantastic literary shows, such as Shakespeare plays at the theatre!”
- “English offers the chance to study the diversity in literature through the ages. It becomes clear how language has developed; you find there is a meaning behind everything you say.”

Frequently asked Questions

- *What do I need to succeed at A Level English Literature?*

- ⇒ The ability to write coherently and logically and structure your arguments carefully
- ⇒ Commitment and motivation
- ⇒ A real interest in and love of reading
- ⇒ A desire to explore, analyse and dissect the language, themes and imagery of texts
- ⇒ A willingness to share your ideas in class discussion

- *How much work does the course involve?*

You will have four lessons a week with two different teachers; each teacher focuses on studying a different text. You can expect at least one piece of homework from each of your English teachers per week and you will have to keep up with the independent reading each week. Written homework could include research, writing notes, answering questions, or most often essays. You are also expected to read widely in your own time.

- *Which texts will I study?*

You will cover several novels, plays and poetry including authors such as Shakespeare, Tennessee Williams, Carol Ann Duffy, Philip Larkin, Christina Rossetti and Jane Austen. You will also study texts from more modern authors for coursework (at least one of which you will choose yourself).

- *Are there any opportunities for trips?*

When studying drama texts we always try to take A level students to see the text in performance whenever possible. Past trips have included seeing 'The Tempest' at the Globe Theatre in London and 'Macbeth'. We also arrange for students to attend A level study conferences where experts from universities give lectures and chair discussions on the key texts to broaden your knowledge and give you a taste of what studying for an English degree would be like.

- *What can I do with A Level English Literature?*

A level English Literature is well regarded by universities and employers as candidates are able to develop excellent analytical skills and generally have a good quality of written communication, being able to articulate informed and well structured responses. Professions which directly relate to English include jobs in journalism, teaching, publishing, advertising and the media but English graduates have gone on to be successful in many other careers.

Clare Hutchins
Head of English

Holly Conroy
2nd in English